### **Frequently Asked Questions** Brownfields Site Assessment Program

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#### Where does the funding come from and who is administering the program?

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Brownfields Program is responsible for administering the \$2,000,000 grant from the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with the City of Longmont assisting property selection and application processing. The funds are to be applied towards environmental site assessments (ESA) and regulated building materials surveys (RBMS), and preparation of site cleanup/reuse plans for eligible public and privately owned properties. CDPHE has hired Stantec, an environmental consultant, to provide the services.

#### What kind of properties may be eligible for grant funding?

Properties may include, but not be limited to:

- Former manufacturing & industrial sites (e.g., shuttered mills & factories)
- Vacant or underutilized commercial facilities (e.g., aging strip malls, warehouses, etc.)
- Former gas stations & auto-related businesses
- Former dry cleaners
- Old rail yards & truck depots
- Salvage/outdoor storage yards, landfills & illegal dump sites
- Older structures and buildings

Questions related to eligibility can be obtained by contacting Tony Chacon, Redevelopment Manager, at (303) 651-8318 or email at <u>tony.chacon@longmontcolorado.gov</u>.

#### When are funds available and how soon can application be processed?

Grant funds are available on a first-come, first served basis through September 2027 subject to remaining funds availability. The sooner you apply the higher the probability of funding acceptance. A determination on eligibility and funding is generally provided within 30 days of application submittal.

### What are the eligibility requirements and application approval timeframe?

To be eligible, sites cannot be on the EPA National Priority "Superfund" List, under a Consent Order with the State, or targeted for any federal or State enforcement action, and be determined by the City and/or CDPHE as to having the potential for some level of environmental contamination and the potential for community benefit and redevelopment. Sites within an established urban renewal area are automatically eligible grant funding upon application.

# Do I have to contribute any money towards the assessments, surveys or planning?

NO! Recipients of a grant have no financial responsibility for the assessments, surveys or planning studies. The grant program, however, <u>DOES NOT</u> provide funding for any actual cleanup that may be identified as part of the assessment process.

**Can I be reimbursed for previous assessment activities?** NO! Grant funds cannot reimburse you for past assessment or related activities.

## Am I able to receive the grant funds directly and select my own consultant?

NO! The work is to be done by Stantec, an environmental consultant under contract to CDPHE to provide such services.



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## Am I required to enter into a financial contract with the environmental consultant?

No! Subject to grant funding approval, you will be required to sign a Property Access Agreement giving the consultant legal permission to enter the property and perform the services.

### Will an assessment affect my property value?

It depends. A finding of insignificant or no contamination could give a prospective buyers more confidence in a purchase, thus increasing marketability and possibly value. A finding of more significant contamination could result in a prospective buyer seeking a purchase price adjusted for such conditions. However, it must be noted that a buyer almost always requires a Phase I environmental assessment to be conducted prior to finalizing an offer. To the contrary, taking advantage of this program allows the property owner to know in advance any environmental conditions that could impact a sales transaction and take appropriate remediation action or establish the parameters for a sale in advance.

#### What is the process for determining if my property will receive funding?

Upon receipt of an application, the City will determine whether the site is a good fit relative to supporting economic, redevelopment, environmental, or community goals). Should it meet City goals, CDPHE will ensure compliance with EPA site eligibility requirements. Upon receiving both City and CDPHE approval, Stantec would thereafter coordinate activities with property owner(s).

Disclaimer: Although this project has been funded wholly or in part by the EPA, the contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the EPA.

#### For additional information contact:

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